

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 16, 18, and 22, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at page 31.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AND §103(a)

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-18, 20-27, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0003506 to Freiburger (hereinafter, merely "Freiburger").

Claims 7, 14, 19, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Freiburger in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,913,040 to Rakavy et al. (hereinafter, merely "Rakavy").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An information distribution system wherein a terminal apparatus, a display information transmitting apparatus, and a schedule transmitting apparatus are interconnected over a network:

...wherein the terminal apparatus periodically sends a schedule transmission request to the schedule transmitting apparatus to request latest schedule information”, (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Freiburger relates to an attention manager that presents information to a person in the vicinity of a display device in a manner that engages at least the peripheral attention of the person. Content data provided by different content providers is made available for use by content display systems.

As understood by Applicant, Rakavy relates to methods and apparatus that are provided for selecting advertisement and other information from a computer network database based on user defined preferences and transmitting the selected advertisement in background mode over a communications link between the computer network and local computer with minimal interference with other processes communicating over the communication link.

Applicant respectfully submits that Freiburger and Rakavy, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “wherein the terminal apparatus periodically sends a schedule transmission request to the schedule transmitting apparatus to request latest schedule information”, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, claim 1 recites that the terminal apparatus periodically sends a schedule transmission request to the schedule transmitting apparatus to request latest schedule information. None of the references relied upon by the Office Action discloses or teaches the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 10, 16, 18, and 22 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

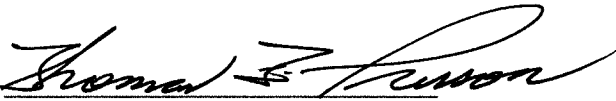
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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